

Dynamic Regional Gallery Engaged with Gympie Community

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates **Gympie Regional Gallery**, one of nine museums and galleries from Brisbane metropolitan and surrounding regions who have completed a challenging year-long program assessing their practice against *The National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries*.

Reviewers, Shelley Pisani and Ross Searle who played a vital role in providing free professional advice and assistance throughout the program congratulated the **Gympie Regional Gallery** saying,

‘The Gympie Regional Gallery is well regarded within the industry as a dynamic gallery that is highly engaged with its community. The Gallery has a passionate leader in Gallery Coordinator Joolie Gibbs who recently won the 2010 Gallery and Museum Achievement Award in the individual paid category for her role. There is a wonderful connection between all of the people involved in the operations of the gallery. We acknowledge its committed staff, its strong Volunteer Program and the energetic and engaged Friends of the Gallery (FOG) Group who strongly support the Gallery, its programs and the staff.’

The Gympie Regional Gallery is housed in the heritage listed School of Arts Building constructed in 1905. The stories of the building are told through the various “Windows of Memories” display boxes produced by artist Nyria King. The gallery presents a dynamic range of exhibitions and public programs tailored to the interests of the community. The reviewers praised **Gympie Regional Gallery** saying,

‘The Gympie Regional Gallery promotes the development of the arts as an integral part of the local community bringing educational opportunities, cultural enrichment, economic and social benefits to the entire region.’

With the assistance of the expertise of Standards Program Reviewers, the Gympie Regional Gallery is working on a staged development of a new Strategic Business Plan.

Joolie Gibbs, Gallery Coordinator said that the M&GSQ's Standards Program helped them to reflect on their capacity when planning future directions:

'The reviewers recommended that the Gympie Regional Gallery remain a non-collecting institution and focus on dynamic public engagement. A basic benchmarking exercise identified that the gallery is understaffed considering the wealth of programs on offer, the depth of community engagement taking place and the population growth of the Gympie Region. We encourage other galleries and museums to take part in M&GSQ's Standards Program as it is a very cathartic and rewarding experience. We look forward to implementing our action plan.'

Rebekah Butler, Executive Director M&GSQ, commended Gympie Regional Gallery and gratefully acknowledged the pro bono work the Standards Reviewers, Ross Searle and Shelley Pisani, undertook with the Gallery and their vital contribution to M&GSQ's Standards Program.

In 2011 the M&GSQ Standards Program will run in the Tablelands and Cook Shires of Far North Queensland.

Full program information is available at

http://www.magsq.com.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=709

The Museum profile and print quality images from the Museum are attached.

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IMAGE CAPTIONS:

Image 1 – Gympie Regional Gallery with their Certificate of recognition. L to R: Deborah Miles, Director, Creative Communities, Arts Queensland, Sandra Ross, Administration Officer, Gympie Regional Gallery, Cr Rae Gâté, Councillor, Gympie Regional Council, Helen Gale, Volunteer, Gympie Regional Gallery, Wendy Hanson, President, Friends of the Gallery, Gympie Regional Gallery, Julie Pratt, Administration Officer, Gympie Regional Gallery

Acknowledgement – Graeme Mackay

Image 2 – Gympie Regional Gallery 25 June 2010

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Image 3 – *Dressmaking Window*, Windows of Memories Installations by Nyria King. This window represents the skills learnt in dressmaking classes during the Gympie School of Arts period 1905 – 1977.

END RELEASE